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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy BRUSSELS 883
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. March 22, 1961
DATE

REF : Embassy's Despatch No. 831 and previous correspondence. Sy-2 DC-1

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION SCS-2	DEPT.
	REC'D 3-28	INFO RM/R-2 REP-1 INR-7 E-7 P-3 Sca-3 PPT-2 OTHER CIA-10 Cat-6 FAA-5 Com-10 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Sabena Crash - Interim Report on Disposition of Effects of AIR-6 American Victims. FBI-1 NSA-4 Army-4 Navy-4

The Department is hereby notified that the Procureur du Roi of Brussels, who was in charge of the investigation, has now delivered to the responsible consular officer all of the personal effects which were found on the bodies and which were identified by the police as belonging to the following 37 victims:

BAGINSKI, Julian F.
CAMPBELL, Ann Brownlee
CAMPBELL, Roger Hunter
CARRIER, Donna Lee
DINEEN, Patricia Barbara
DINEEN, Robert Francis Sr.
DUKE, Iris Jean
FOSTER, Linda Faye
HADLEY, Alvah Lynn
HADLEY, Ila Ray
HADLEY, Ray Ellis
HARTSHORNE, Harold Sr.
HARTSHORNE, Louisa
HERRING, Daurice Beth
HICKOX, William Holmes
HICKOX, Laurie Jean
KELLETT, Harold George
KELLEY, Gregory Eric
KELLEY, Nathalie Frances
KIPP, William Robert
LEMOINE, Juanita
LILLIE, Howard Russell
McMINN, Deane Everett
MICHELSON, Rhode Lee
MYERS, Herbert H.
OWEN, Laurence Rochon
OWEN, Maribel Vinson
POWELL, Walter Sidney
POZZUOLO, Margaret Lovering
RAMSAY, Douglas Alexander
RICHARDS, Dudley Shaw
SCHOLDAN, James Edward
SILBERSTEIN, Max
SORIA, Martin Sebastian
SWALLENDER, Carl William
WESTERFELD, Sharon Lee
WESTERFELD, Stephanie

Except for a few banknotes, still intact but in a fragile state because of the intense heat to which they were subjected, the effects consist of purses, banknotes, travelers checks, airline tickets, personal papers, all badly charred, and twisted and fused remnants of rings, watches, and other jewelry. In order to carry out his statutory responsibility the responsible consular officer has deemed it necessary to make a detailed inventory of the personal effects, as received from the police, but to deviate from the normal procedure since

Action Officer
Action Taken
Date of Action
Signature of Action Officer

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REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY D.Z.Ackerman DATE 2/10/83
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKS
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except for negotiable banknotes, the items have no commercial or inventorial value, but may have great sentimental value. Accordingly, a certificate is being prepared along the lines of the enclosed specimen which will be submitted to the next-of-kin, or legal representative, in due course with a request for instructions. Needless to state, a minimum charge of $2.00 will have to be collected to cover the prescribed fee in each case.

The police authorities have also now notified the Embassy that they are holding at Zaventem the following pieces of luggage and personal effects belonging to, or believed to belong to, the American victims, which they are prepared to hand over immediately to the responsible consular officer, viz.:

Group I - 2.5 cubic meters of identified property;
Group II - 1.3 cubic meters of identifiable property;
Group III - 3.3 cubic meters of unidentified property, of which, it is stated at least one-third belongs to the skating team.

It is understood that the baggage was blown out of the plane at the time of the crash and, therefore, suffered less from fire. However, all the baggage and personal effects have been badly damaged either by fire, water, or chemicals used to extinguish the fire. With few exceptions, they have no commercial value, but may have sentimental value. The effects in Group I, belonging to 36 of the American victims, will, of course, have to be taken over and accounted for along with any items in Group II which may eventually be identified. As regards the items in Group III, and any items in Group II, which cannot be identified after due investigation, the responsible consular officer plans to leave such property with the police for such disposition as they may decide. It is understood that Group III includes the sum of about $20,000 in Belgian and American currency which will eventually, it is understood, be returned to the carrier by the judicial authorities.

It is conservatively estimated that the labor involved in taking over and inventorying the effects, preparing the necessary letters to the next-of-kin, et cetera, will require 50% of the time of one officer and two clerks for at least three months. Furthermore, the Embassy has no space to store or house the luggage and personal effects still in the hands of the police, while the inventory is being made, or after the inventory has been made while awaiting shipment.

To meet the immediate staff shortage, the Embassy has obtained the services of one local clerk from the American Consulate General at Antwerp for a period of four weeks

commencing March 22. If additional clerical help is required, after April 19, the Embassy will endeavor to find funds to engage a local employee on a contract basis, or to take other appropriate steps.

This still leaves the space problem, since storage space must be found to house the effects pending shipment. It is accordingly planned to rent space in the warehouse of the local forwarding firm, which will be utilized for shipping the effects, pending their final disposition subject, of course, to the wishes of the next-of-kin.

For the Chargé d'Affairs a.i.:

Basil F. Macgowan
Second Secretary
of Embassy

Enclosure:

Specimen Inventory.

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DECLASSIFIED

(Specimen)

DECLASSIFIED

INVENTORY
of

PERSONAL EFFECTS OF John Doe DECEASED, WHO WAS KILLED IN THE SABENA AIR CRASH ON FEBRUARY 15, 1961.

I hereby certify that the following is a complete listing of the items found on the body of the deceased and handed over to the undersigned by the Procureur du Roi of Brussels on March 16, 1961:

	VALUE IN U.S. CURRENCY	TOTAL
CONVERTIBLE ASSETS:		
United States currency, partly burnt.	$ 80.00	
		$ 80.00
JEWELRY, HEIRLOOMS AND ARTICLES OF SENTIMENTAL VALUE:		
1 twisted gold rin, without stone	nil	
1 diary, badly charred	nil	
		nil
	TOTAL	$ 80.00
NON-NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS:		
1 Sabena Airline ticket, unused portion, not redeemable at post	unknown	
23 American Express travelers checks, badly burned but still identifiable	370.00	
$10.00 denomination (nos. ____ to ____)	120.00	
$20.00 denomination (nos. ____ to ____)	200.00	
$50.00 denomination (nos. ____)	50.00	

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TOTAL NON-NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS $370.00

Basil F. Macgowan
American Consul

Witnesses:

Pierre Van Eycke
American Embassy, Brussels

Margareta De Cuyper
American Consulate General,
Antwerp

March 22, 1961